



Incorporated 1787

**Board of Police Commissioners
September 2, 2014 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm Town Hall Commission Room**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Bill Brady Chairman, Beth Gralnick Vice Chairman, Peter Ottomano, Jess DiPasquale, Woody Bliss, Susan Moch & Jeff Eglash

Others Present: Chief Troxell, Sgt. Ferullo, John Conte – Town Engineer and Residents from Old Mill Road

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Moch – Moderator of the Public Hearing with Commissioner Bliss as Parliamentarian.

Commissioner Moch explained the rules for the open public hearing – a) Limit three minutes per public speaker b) A discussion by the Police Commission members c) Close the Public Hearing.

John Conte Town Engineer – Submitted a report to the Police Commission on his studies and recommendations to help to minimize the speeding and traffic problems on Old Mill Road. John Conte acknowledged the Weston Police Chief and Officers from the Weston Police Department that were helpful in obtaining the information necessary for the report. The report took a look of three locations on Old Mill Road that he thought would comply with safe stopping site distances and if they would comply with staying on the maximum road gradient for vertical and horizontal alignment within Town policies. John measured from the Wilton Town line and the measurements go in a northerly direction toward Georgetown Road. The first location he looked at he thought would comply with the Town policies was 738 feet from the Wilton Town line and this was in the vicinity of house #51, there was adequate safe stopping site distances in the North and South directions. This area lies between two high points one

of the problems with this area is because there is a point between two high points and a vertical alignment placing a speed hump would traverse the entire width of the roadway and possibly cause drainage problems at this location. The width of the roadway at this location is only 19 feet as we indicated in our last meeting if we are going to be putting in speed humps it is recommended that it be installed in the location which meets our road standards as 22 feet. There are no catch basins or drainage structures in this area the shoulder in some locations is higher than pavement itself, pavement elevation and the right of way is very close to the edge of road. Putting drainage structures in there could be very difficult if trying to alleviate any drainage issues. The second location was 1,512 feet from the town line and that is in the vicinity of house #37. We have the same situation as in the first location where drainage could be a problem with the installation of a speed hump but it does meet safe and stop site distances and the roadway is 20 feet. The right of way would have to be surveyed if you can widened the road to 22 feet that would meet our roadway standards and to see if you have adequate distance which doesn't appear to be because of the right of way being one to two feet from the edge of the road, but there is a possibility there. The third location again met with the safe and stop site distances that would be required for the installation of a speed hump. It measured 2,304 feet from the Wilton Town line this was in the vicinity of house # 21. There is adequate safe and stop site distances at this location in the North and South directions but once again it was determined drainage problems could incur with the installation of a speed hump. The drainage in this location could be minimized if there is adequate space within the right of way for catch basins to be installed providing a discharge to an existing brook in the vicinity of this location. To install catch basins a Land Surveyor would be needed to establish the right of way boundaries and approval would be needed from the Conservation Commission for discharge or drainage into the existing growth. Catch basins would also need the approval of the Selectmen.

In the event we cannot overcome these restrictions, if you look at the distance between the first location and second locations house #51 and house #37 the distance between two speed humps would be 774 feet and if you look at the separation of the next house #37 and house #21 the separation distance there would be 792 feet. To make speed humps efficient in slowing down traffic all studies have determined speed humps would have to be placed at short intervals. So even if we were able to overcome some of the restrictions at the three locations, you would have almost 800 feet between speed humps which means you could possibly slow down the traffic at the localized area of the speed hump but before they reach the next speed hump they would be speeding up. The Chief and I have looked at this quite a bit and we think we have a better solution and maybe having a safer way of slowing down traffic.

The one thing we would start first with is having painted white lines on both edges of the roadway Georgetown Road to the Town line this is a concept that the Connecticut DOT uses on roads where they would like to slow down traffic. The painted white lines on both edges of the roadway would give the driver an optical illusion to actually show how narrow the road is. Beside the three locations we looked at for speed humps

instead of speed humps we recommend having a section of 25 feet in length painted yellow cross hatches with the yellow reflective paint at the three locations. We would also have signage – Road Narrows. We would like to install a DOT message board to indicate the speed limit if you exceed that speed limit, the fine would be X # of dollars. The Chief indicated to me that the State of Connecticut stores three of them in the Town of Weston, we have full use of those message boards if the DOT is not using them and there are no fees in using the message boards. Install two Pizza boxes. The benefit of this proposal will be the entire roadway of our section of the town not just three locations of the roadway. Not having a speed hump in the road I can see no exposure to the Town of Weston in case of accidents. There would be exposure to the Town of Weston if speed humps are installed and not maintained properly. It would be a low cost to install these devices they can be installed very quickly once approved by the Town of Weston, Board of Selectmen. All work can be done in house no contractors will be needed. It will not impede First responders time. John Conte said in his professional opinion speed humps should not be installed on Old Mill Road. Chief Troxell supported John Conte's alternative recommendations and said the police will continue enforcement of traffic issues on Old Mill Road.

Chief Troxell said the Weston Police Department currently has two monitors, but they are needed in other areas of the town and cannot be solely used on Old Mill Road.

Commissioner Bliss said when he was Chairman of Swerpa they used an expert from UConn who is an Engineer. He seems himself as an educator who educates Police Commissioners and residents regarding speed humps, unfortunately he does not attend evening meetings but he is available during the day if we would like to have him speak to us.

Commissioner Moch opened up the Public Meeting to the residents of Old Mill Road for public testimony.

Todd Bucaro, the general manager of Cobb's Mill Inn on Old Mill Road, and is a resident of Weston. He supports whatever means that the Police Commission plans to fix this problem. He thinks we should not wait any longer as a community this needs to be fixed immediately. He believes a tragedy is waiting to happen.

Jenny Riley - 38 Old Mill Road – She has lost her side view mirror because the road is so narrow someone side swiped her.

Alan Sharkany – 1 Old Mill Road – He had to repair his stone wall three times. He has called 911 a couple of times about accidents. Cars are going through the stop sign there.

John Pokorny – 43 Old Mill Road – Asked what happens after this meeting? Once you decide the course of action he asked the Commissioners if they can apply for a special appropriation for pizza boxes.

John Withington – 34 Old Mill Road – Some of the trees have been cut down on Old Mill Road but it doesn't seem that it has helped. He would like to see speed humps he feels this will slow down the traffic. We drive two driveways on the road because he doesn't want his kids to walk on the road. He wants to see a plan in place and move forward.

There were about fourteen residents from Old Mill Road and one resident on Newtown Turnpike. All the residents are in agreement that the road is not a safe passage right now. The road is not wide enough. It is very difficult to get their children off the school bus because of the speeding on Old Mill Road. They are all worried a tragedy is waiting to happen.

Sgt. Ferullo – responded about a comment made that the school bus is stopping on both sides of the road. Sgt. Ferullo stated that it is a standard procedure on 90% of our roads according to the transportation company.

Ali Farsun – 37 Old Mill Road – She asked the Commissioners in doing there study did they consult with school bus drivers, garbage pickup and any other large trucks who provide services to the residents? Chief Troxell said he has never received any complaints from the garbage companies, Fed Ex, etc. Chief Troxell said that Dave Lustberg is the supervisor of the bus drivers and he has personally gone on school routes with Dave and he has never forwarded a concern or a complaint from a bus driver on Old Mill Road. Commissioner DiPasquale asked in any of his discussions with Dave Lustberg there was some talk at one time whether cameras could be installed in some buses was that ever brought up? Chief Troxell said they have cameras on board in the back and front of the buses that monitor the kids on the bus and they have had some success in catching people passing buses. We do not have cameras attached to the buses on the outside of the buses that show cars passing buses. New Cannan and some other towns have had them temporarily installed but they are not using them anymore because the information collected on the registration of the vehicles is basically stored in a private company's data base so they have all stopped using them.

Ali Farsun would like to see two pizza boxes on Old Mill Road. The Chief explained they have a lot of requests in different parts of the town for pizza boxes but the Town only has two. The Chief said if we get two more we will be able to put two on Old Mill Road for 80% of the time. Commissioner Brady said in the last budget process the Police Department did ask for two more pizza boxes but only one was approved.

Commissioner Ottomano motioned to approve John Conte – Town Engineer – recommendations to approve:

- 1. Paint white lines on the edges of the road on both sides to give the motorists a sense of illusion of the narrowness on the road to slow down.**

- 2. Paint 25-inch wide yellow cross hatches across the road in three locations.**
- 3. Add signage to the cross hatches that says “Road Narrows”.**
- 4. Install a Dept. of Transportation (DOT) message board to indicate the speed limit and list the fine for speeding.**
- 5. Install two speed traffic monitors with cameras to record speeding violations.**

Commissioner Eglash likes John Conte’s recommendations, he is not in favor of adding grooving without proper consideration and he does not believe that it has been given to the grooving as yet. That may be something he would be in favor of adding at a later time.

Commissioner Brady motioned that we approve Commissioner Eglash recommendations to not approving the grooving on Old Mill Road at this time, 2nd by Commissioner Bliss, all in favor. Commissioner DiPasquale recused himself.

Commissioner Ottomano motioned that we approve John Conte’s recommendations and ask that John Conte to make a formal request to the Board of Selectmen for funding of the project, 2nd by Commissioner Moch, all in favor. Commissioner DiPasquale recused himself.

John Conte – Town Engineer is on the Selectmen’s September 17th Special Selectmen’s meeting to ask for funding of this project on Old Mill Road.

Commissioner Moch requested that we request a special appropriation for two pizza boxes equipped with cameras, get permission to buy the camera to retrofit, and get a speed trailer. 2nd by Commissioner Brady, all in favor. Commissioner DiPasquale recused himself.

Sgt. Ferullo said before the appropriation request is made to the selectmen, he will check with the state prosecutor’s office to see if ticketing can be done through the use of cameras in the speed monitors.

Commissioner Bliss made a motion to not approve speed humps on Old Mill Road at this time, 2nd by Commissioner Gralnick, all in favor. Commissioner DiPasquale recused himself.

Public Hearing ended 9:48 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gunshor
Police Commission
Recording Secretary
Minutes Approved 11/5/14**

